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Rep. Gary Miller to Serve on Panel Focused on Developing Freight Transportation Improvements to Strengthen the Economy

Washington, D.C. – Rep. Gary Miller (CA-31st), a senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, has been selected by Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (PA-9th) to serve on a special panel tasked with examining how improving freight transportation in the United States can strengthen the economy.

“Southern California serves as a vital conduit for transporting goods to the rest of the nation,” said Congressman Miller. “Today, one-fourth of our nation’s seaborne cargo flows through the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. As container volume entering Southern California’s ports is expected to greatly increase in the coming years, it is more important than ever that we work to find effective solutions to the congestion challenges increased freight movement poses.”

Expressing concerns about the current state of our nation’s freight infrastructure, Congressman Miller said, “Our nation’s infrastructure is consistently ranked below other developed countries, which hurts our global competitiveness and America’s participation in the global marketplace. I fear that without action, America’s freight infrastructure, especially in the Inland Empire, will be unable to handle the increasing worldwide trade flows as freight moves to and from Asia, Canada, Mexico, and the Eastern United States.”

Congressman Miller also noted the economic importance of goods movement to the Inland Empire saying, “My number one priority in Congress is providing jobs and economic growth to the Inland Empire. Improving freight transportation will provide a significant portion of that growth. The 31st Congressional District is home to Colton Crossing, one of the busiest railroad crossings in the nation, hundreds of trucking firms, and numerous warehouses and distribution centers. Together, these freight pathways help bring goods to the marketplace and support thousands of jobs in goods movement, manufacturing, construction, and retail in San Bernardino County. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this bipartisan panel to find pragmatic solutions to the challenges confronting our transportation network and future economic growth.”

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Shuster said, “Given his extensive experience with transportation issues as a long-time member of the Committee, Congressman Miller knows the importance of having and maintaining a functional, efficient freight movement network across all modes of transportation. I am confident that he and the other members of the panel will provide the Committee with valuable insights for the improvement of freight transportation.”

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